expenditure on subsidies on items like food, fertilizers and for export promotion/market development will be Rs. 8454 crores during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the likely impact of such subsidy on price situation; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to stop giving such subsidies or at least curtial the same so as to reduce the burden on the exchequer ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yus, Sir. Those r.re based on Budget 1989-90 figures.

(b) and (c) Subsidies given to consumers are meant for price stabilisation. If such subsidies are withdrawn, prices of thi relevant commodities will rise. Subsidy for exports promotes exports. In creased exports improve balance of payments position enabling imports to offset domestic shortages which in turn benefits overall growth and price stability. It is however, always the endeavour of the Gov ernment to keep down th *i* subsidies to the minimum level possible, so as to curtail the burden on the exchequer.

Khusro Committee Report on Agricultural credit

327. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the Khusro Committee Report on Agriciltural credit submitted to Government in 1989;

(b> whether Government hive accepted any of its recommendations; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereot ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) to (c) The Agriculture Credit Review Committee (Chairman— Prof. A.M. Khusro), has reviewed the rural financial system in the country and evaluated the major protlems and issues currently affecting the same. It has made wide range of recommendations for improving the quality of credit and strengthening its efficiency and effectiveness. Th 5 Report is under consideration of the Government and Reserve Bank of India.

Delay in handling Government Accounts by Nationalised Banks

328. SHRl KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE b? pleased to -rfate :

(«) whether any random study has been made to ascertain the annual losses suffered due to the delay in handling Government accounts by the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) it so, what arc the details thereof stating the number of public soctor banks where such a study was conducted and the gmount of loss detected to have been suffered annually due to delay in handling Government accounts; and

(c) whether Government have critically examined the causes for the delay; if so, what remedial measures have baen taken by Gov-ernment in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) The schemes for the receipt of Government dues on account of direct taxes and indirect taxes by designated nationalised banks in addition to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and State Bank o$_f$ India (SBI) were introduced by the Government with effect from 1st April, 1976 and 1st April, 1977 respectively. In terms of the exist-